

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 11877 201709Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 H-03 NSC-10 SS-15

ACDA-19 IO-13 OIC-04 AEC-11 AECE-00 OMB-01 RSR-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6936

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11877

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, US, GW

SUBJECT: FONOFF OFFICIAL ON MBFR DISCUSSIONS IN WASH-
INGTON AUGUST 22-23

REF: USNATO 3874

1. RUTH (FONOFF MBFR CHIEF) TOLD US THAT DURING HIS
TALKS IN WASHINGTON OVER AUGUST 22-23 HE WANTS TO CARRY
BILATERAL MBFR DISCUSSIONS FORWARD AND IDENTIFY AS
CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE POINTS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US
AND FRG AND UNRESOLVED ISSUES. HE NOTED THAT THE
DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE NEED FOR FALL-BACK PROPOSALS IN
NATO HAVE BEEN SET ASIDE AS FAR AS THE GERMANS ARE CON-
CERNED, AND THERE WAS NO NEED TO DISCUSS THE TOPIC IN
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PAGE 02 BONN 11877 201709Z

WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED THERE WAS STILL NEED

TO DISCUSS THE OVERALL CONTENT OF THE US POSITION; THE US NEGOTIATING APPROACH OF JULY 27 WAS, FOR INSTANCE, ACCEPTABLE TO THE FRG, BUT THE FRG WOULD WANT SOME OF IT CLARIFIED.

2. IN PARTICULAR, RUTH NOTED THAT WE DID NOT CONSIDER THE JULY 27 PAPER A FINAL PROPOSAL AND WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IN FAIRLY SPECIFIC TERMS HOW MUCH FLEXIBILITY THERE IS IN IT ALONG THIS LINE. WE ASKED RUTH WHY THE FRG APPEARED TO CONSIDER THE US APPROACH A MINIMAL PROPOSAL (PARA 4 REFTEL). RUTH INDICATED THAT THE TERM "MINIMAL" WAS A PERSONAL FORMULATION MADE BY RANTZAU IN NATO, AND NOT NECESSARILY REFLECTING OFFICIAL FRG THINKING. NONETHELESS, HE WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT BECAUSE THE US PROPOSAL WAS A NEGOTIATING APPROACH IN THE FORM OF A FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL, THE FRG WANTS TO EXPLORE WITH WASHINGTON MORE BACKGROUND TO US THINKING, AND SPECIFICALLY WHERE THERE IS GIVE IN THE US POSITION.

3. THE GERMAN SIDE ALSO WANTS TO EXPLORE US THINKING ABOUT LINKAGE BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND PHASE NEGOTIATIONS. THE FRG HAD NOT YET ARRIVED AT A FIRM GOVERNMENT POSITION ON THE MATTER, GIVEN THE DIFFERENCES NOT YET RESOLVED BETWEEN THE FONOFF AND FMOD. (WE UNDERSTAND FROM FMOD SOURCES THAT DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER'S PREFERRED POSITION IS THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST STAGE REDUCTION BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF PHASE II NEGOTIATIONS.) DESPITE LACK OF A GOVERNMENTAL POSITION, RUTH BELIEVED FURTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT US THINKING IN THE LINKAGE WOULD BE MOST USEFUL, INCLUDING HOW THE SECOND PHASE AND COMMON CEILING CONCEPTS WOULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE PHASE I DISCUSSIONS.

4. RUTH SAID THAT THE GERMAN EMBASSY WOULD DELIVER TO THE DEPARTMENT IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY--AUGUST 20--A LIST OF QUESTIONS AND POINTS WHICH HE WILL WANT TO DISCUSS WITH THE DEPARTMENT. THE LIST WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE AND COVER ALL MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE FRG.

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PAGE 03 BONN 11877 201709Z

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